

Remarks

Claims 1, 14, 17, 18 and 19 are amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11-14 and 17-20 are pending and are under consideration.

The claims are amended to re-insert "zeolites" as a carrier.

Claim 17 is amended to remove "according to claim 15".

No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,187,740 in view of Kuzmenka, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,627,591.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol in view of Eskuchen, et al., WO 01/81529 in view of Kuzmenka.

Bettiol is cited as teaching laundering fabrics for the benefit of inhibiting dye transfer. Bettiol is cited as teaching layered silicates and zeolites (col. 23, lines 30-65, col. 24, lines 30-35) and dye transfer inhibitors such as copolymers of N-vinylpyrrolidone (paragraph bridging cols. 27 and 28).

Applicants point out that Bettiol discloses, among other dye transfer inhibiting agents, N-vinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylpyrrolidone polymers and polyvinylimidazoles (col. 28, lines 1-10).

Kuzmenka is cited as teaching granular detergents comprising TINOFIX CL (col. 3, line 32) and copolymer of N-vinylpyrrolidone (col. 4, lines 1-20).

Applicants point out that Kuzmenka also discloses polyvinylpyrrolidone polymers and polyvinylimidazoles (col. 4, lines 4-8).

Eskuchen is cited as teaching granular detergent compositions comprising layered silicates as substitutes for zeolites where the preferred silicate is betonite (para. 0023).

The Examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to substitute TINOFIX CL of Kuzmenka for the N-vinylpyrrolidone of Bettiol, thus arriving at the present invention.

Applicants submit herewith a Rule 132 Declaration by Hauke Rohwer, one of the present inventors. The Declaration compares a present composition to two prior art compositions. Present composition (A) contains 1% by weight TINOFIX CL. Prior art composition (B) contains 1% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone. Prior art composition (C) contains 1% by weight of a copolymer of polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylimidazole. The dye transfer inhibiting agents were formulated with a standard detergent containing a magnesiumsilicate and a sodium silicate. Polyvinylpyrrolidone and the copolymer of polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylimidazole are commercially available dye fixatives.

The formulated detergent compositions were prepared as granules. A detergent was prepared at a level of 2.5 g/L in tap water. 5 g of a SOLOPHENYL Blue dyed cotton fabric was washed with the detergent at a liquor ratio of 1 to 10 (tap water). The extinction of each wash bath was determined, which is a measure of the degree of bleeding of the blue dye into the washing liquor. The extinction of the present wash liquor is 0.86, while the prior art values are 1.15 and 1.45.

The present inventive formulation is clearly and unexpectedly superior to the prior art formulations as a dye fixative.

In light of the results of the Rohwer Declaration, Applicants submit that these 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol in view of Kuzmenka and further in view of Panandiker, et al., U.S. pat. No. 6,156,722.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol in view of Exkuchen and Kuzmenka and further in view of Panandiker.

Panandiker is cited as disclosing granular detergent compositions. The granules may be sprayed with liquid ingredients, col. 9, lines 35-44.

Applicants address the rejections of claim 12 also with the surprising results of the Rohwer Declaration.

In view of the results of the Rohwer Declaration and the above remarks, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Petition for a 1 month extension of time
Rule 132 Declaration (Hauke Rohwer)

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